

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----040212Z 112761 /15

R 031633Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1185
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3490

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: EINV PFOR PINS AO US
SUBJECT: APRIL 29 CONTACT WITH FLEC

REFS: (A) LISBON 1866 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 66457,
(C) 76 STATE 274333, (D) 76 LISBON A-337 (NOTAL),
(E) STATE 35715 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FLEC REPS VISITED EMBASSY APR 29 TO RECEIVE
RESPONSE TO FLEC ULTIMATUM. EMBOFFS CONVEYED
USG POSITION, WHICH WAS GREETED WITH EMOTIONAL
OUTBURST AND THREATENED TERMINATION OF CONTACT WITH
EMBASSY. FLEC REPS DID NOT, HOWEVER, REPEAT THEIR
THREAT. END SUMMARY.

1. FLEC VISIT: CABINDA ENCLAVE LIBERATION FRONT (FLEC)
FINANCE MINISTER JOAO SERRANO AND LISBON REPRESENTATIVE
PEDRO CARLOS LUIS PUNA CALLED ON EMBASSY APR 29 TO HEAR
USG AND GULF RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS FLEC ULTIMATUM
(REF A). FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS (REF B AND C),
EMBOFFS INFORMED THEM THAT U.S. POLICY OF NONINTERFERENCE
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IN CABINDAN AFFAIRS STOOD UNCHANGED. FOR THE THIRD
TIME, EMBOFFS STRESSED IN FIRM TERMS THAT USG COULD
NOT ACCEDE TO THREATS TO ITS CITIZENS OR BUSINESSES
AND THAT REPEATED THREATS AGAINST CABINDA GULF WOULD
ONLY UNDERCUT SYMPATHY FOR FLEC.

2. FLEC FRUSTRATION: BOTH SERRANO AND PUNA REACTED

WITH BITTER EMOTION TO THE DEMARCHE. SERRANO, IN PARTICULAR, EXPRESSED OUTRAGE, AND ONCE NEARLY WALKED OUT OF MEETING THREATENING TO CUTOFF FUTURE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY. HE ASSERTED HIS INCREDULITY AT THE INSENSITIVITY OF THE U.S. RESPONSE. SERRANO EXCLAIMED THAT FLEC COULD, AND HAD, ACCEPTED THE U.S. DECISION TO WITHHOLD ARMS, BUT REPEATED U.S. REFUSAL TO SUPPLY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CABINDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE (FLEC MINIMUM DEMAND, REPAIR D) WAS INCOMPREHENSIBLE. IT WAS HARD TO GRASP, HE SAID, EXACTLY HOW THE U.S. SQUARED ITS ESPOUSAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH ITS CABINDA POLICY. TO UNDERSCORE POINT, SERRANO NOTED THAT: --CABINDA GULF OUTPUT WAS SUBSIDIZING ANGOLAN/CUBAN COLONIALISM, MAKING THE U.S. A "COLLABORATOR WITH ASSASSINS"; -- CABINDA GULF, HEEDLESS OF THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ABOUT IT, MERRILY WENT ON ITS PROFIT-MAKING WAY; -- THE USG ACQUIESCED IN CABINDA GULF'S CONTINUED PROFIT-TAKING IN A MILIEU CHARACTERIZED BY CUBA'S LETHAL SUPPRESSION OF DISCONTENT; -- BUT, IN CONTRAST, USG DEMONSTRATED GREAT INGENUITY IN DEVISING LOFTY ETHICAL AND JURIDICAL ARGUMENTS TO PROHIBIT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CABINDAN VICTIMS.

3. BUT NO MORE THREATS: DESPITE THEIR EMOTIONALISM, THE FLECT REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT REITERATE PAST THREATS AGAINST GULF; THEY ARGUED THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A THREAT PER SE. FLEC, THEY SAID, HAD ALWAYS SCRUPULOUSLY PROTECTED U.S. LIVES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PROPERTY, THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

4. EMBASSY RESPONSE: EMBOFF REITERATED TO FLEC REPRESENTATIVES USG CONCERN FOR PLIGHT OF CABINDAN REFUGEES AND INFORMED THEM THAT USG HAD ALREADY INTERCEDED IN THEIR BEHALF. EMBOFFS PROVIDED SERRANO AND PUNA WITH BACKGROUND OF U.S. EFFORTS TO REPLACE UNRESPONSIVE UNHCR ZAIRE REP NOEL WITH MORE SYMPATHETIC INDIVIDUAL (REF E).

5. SERRANO RETURNS: SERRANO RETURNED TO EMBASSY MAY 3 WITH A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR U.S. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE INCLUDING A LIST OF NEEDED FOODSTUFFS AND MEDICINES. THIS REQUEST, ALONG WITH A FULL ACCOUNT OF APR 29 MEETING, WILL BE POUCHED. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, MEETINGS, THREATS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705100/aaaadipt.tel
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